

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

## JUNE 08 WILDFIRES SITUATION REPORT # 7 25 June 2008, 1500 Hours

*New Information in Bold Italic Type*

### SUMMARY

Landfill Fire, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County was declared out on 23 June and the Poor Mountain Fire on private property in Montgomery County was declared out on 24 June leaving three active wildfires in VA. Stone Coal Fire, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County is **50% contained**; South 1 Fire, Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge in cities of Suffolk and Chesapeake is **75% contained**; Hot Fire, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Warren and Shenandoah Counties is 100% contained; VA Department of Forestry and US Forest Service are coordinating aerial observations flights of mountain ranges in Virginia.

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Routine Operations with normal staffing. Planning Section is active providing a coordinated Commonwealth picture of the situation.

### WEATHER FORECAST

***Wednesday, 25 June: Mostly sunny; daytime highs mid 80's to low 90's with relative humidity 30-40%; overnight lows upper 50's to upper 60's; west-southwest winds 5-10 MPH.***

***Thursday, 26 June: Partly to mostly cloudy; 30% chance of scattered showers and thunderstorms developing during the afternoon; daytime highs mid 80's to upper 90's with relative humidity 35-50%; overnight lows low 60's to upper 60's; west-northwest winds 5-10 MPH.***

### OPERATIONS SECTION

**ESF 1 – Transportation:** VA Department of Transportation provided 2 tractors and operators on 21 June at request of US Fish and Wildlife Service to cut grass along roadsides to prevent fire from spreading. ***VDOT resources projected to demobilize on 26 June.***

**ESF 2 – Communications:** VDEM fulfilled request from US Department of Interior through Suffolk Emergency Management for deployment of Sprint ERT and IP Trailer for communications, cellular telephone and data support. The Sprint ERT and IP Trailer are projected to demobilize and redeploy back to Richmond on 1 July 2008.

**ESF 4 – Firefighting:** ***VA Department of Forestry (VDOF) declared the Poor Mountain Wildfire in Montgomery County out on 24 June. Lightning is the probable cause and the fire burned approximately 250 acres.***

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) reports the South 1 Fire, Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge in Suffolk and Chesapeake, Virginia, along the VA/NC border, is estimated to have burned **3,524** acres. A piece of construction equipment that burned is the cause of the fire. Area communities are affected by smoke, but no homes are in danger at this time. The fire is **75%** contained and 1 July is the projected date for containment. ***Staffing has been reduced from 385 to 298 personnel.*** Agencies providing personnel and resources are: VA Department of Forestry, VA Department of Emergency Management, The Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, NC Department of Forest

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

## Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Resources, City of Chesapeake Fire Department, City of Suffolk Fire Department and Civil Air Patrol. ***Resources are being demobilized and now include on scene; 6 hand crews, 9 engines, 8 bulldozers, 1 water tender and 14 other specialized fire apparatus supported by 2 helicopters and 1 fixed wing aircraft. High volume pumps are being successful in continuing to raise water levels in critical fire areas. Crews continue to support burnout operations on all flanks of the fire. Demobilization and transfer of command is in progress. Residents and travelers in downwind areas should expect to see smoke and haze and smell smoke for several weeks and visibility on roads maybe reduced.*** A temporary flight restriction is in place up to 4,000 feet above the fire.

US Forest Service (USFS) reports the Hot Fire, Richardson Knob, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest in Warren and Shenandoah Counties is estimated to have burned 200 acres and is 100% contained and under control; staffing was reduced from 15 to 5 personnel to monitor the fire. Lightning is probable cause of the fire.

**US Forest Service (USFS) reports the Landfill Fire, North Mountain, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest in Botetourt County was declared out on 23 June, is estimated to have burned 4 acres and was probably caused by lightning.**

US Forest Service (USFS) reports the Stone Coal Fire, Caldwell Mountain, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County was probably caused by lightning. ***Estimated size burned is 840 acres and is 50% contained. Since there is no threat to private property, USFS is managing this under Wildland Fire Use guideline which allows the fire to burn for resource benefits. Containment lines have been reinforced on the west; north and south flanks and crews on the east flank will monitor activity around Lees Gap where moisture, steepness and a lack of ground fuels have slowed the fire's activity. Staffing and resources have been reduced to approximately 15 personnel on the scene to include 1 engine and 1 bulldozer.***

**ESF 5 – Emergency Management:** VDEM created an event in WebEOC “2008-06 Wildfires”. VEOC is monitoring WebEOC, maintaining situational awareness, monitoring and coordinating request for wildfire assistance with VA Department of Forestry and prepared to assist.

### **PLANNING SECTION**

**Situation/Documentation Unit:** Monitoring situation and issuing daily SPOT reports and situation reports on Monday, Wednesday and Friday's. ***Next Situation Report will be issued Friday, 27 June 2008.***

Prepared by: Michael Gray, Operations Plans Chief  
Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator  
/s/ Harry Colestock, Operations Director